

## Abstract

A collaborative multimedia system includes a plurality of notebook processes operatively interconnected over a computer network to a conference server, and, an  
5 optional podium process capable of controlling the priority of communications within the conference. The notebook processes are capable of privately communicating with other conference participants in addition to participating in the conference. A sophisticated graphic user interface provides public and private whiteboard areas by which graphic information may be exchanged with other processes in a conference or  
10 over separate communication link.